

REMARKS

The Supplemental Examiner's Answer has been carefully reviewed, and in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

As previously appealed, claims 1 and 11-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Huston et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 3,407,027) in view of *Hennebert et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 4,764,351). Claims 2, 5, 6 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Huston et al.* '027 in view of *Hennebert et al.* '351 and further in view of *Spence* (U.S. Patent No. 4,919,888). Claims 3, 4, 7-9 and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Huston et al.* '027 in view of *Hennebert et al.* '351 and *Spence* '888 and further in view of *Quehl* (U.S. Patent No. 4,165,404). Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Huston et al.* '027 in view of *Hennebert et al.* '351, *Spence* '888 and *Quehl* '404 and further in view of *Leimbacher et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,837,181). Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Huston et al.* '027 in view of *Hennebert et al.* '351, and further in view of *Houston et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,894,014).

In the above-noted Examiner's Answer, the Examiner contends that the chamber 10 of *Hutson et al.* removable since the welds holding the inner shell 12 and the outer shell 14 are capable of being broken. In view of the Examiner's interpretation thereof, claim 1 has been amended to more particularly define the removability of the sterilization chamber of the present invention. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the sterilization chamber comprises fastening portions formed in integration with the rest of the chamber for allowing releasable

connection of the sterilization chamber directly to the housing of the autoclave device by means of repeatedly removable fasteners. Newly added claim 21 further recites that the fastening portions are flat front and back surfaces of the sterilization chamber provided with openings through which a fastening means may be introduced and thereafter fastened in the housing.

The primary reference upon which the Examiner relies, *Huston*, (U.S. Patent No. 3,407,027), discloses an autoclave having a double walled construction. *Huston* discloses that the inner shell 14 and the fastening ring 25 may be made of a high quality corrosion resistant material while the outer shell 12 and the end ring 15 may be made of flange grade material which is lower in cost than the corrosion resistant material. *Huston* further discloses that utilizing this structure makes it possible to make the inner shell 14 thinner and to space the inner shell 14 and the outer shell 12 apart to obtain the required strength without regard to the length of the arms 20 of the door 11. As further disclosed by *Huston*, the outer shell 12 is connected to the inner shell 14 at the door end by the end ring 15. The fastening ring 25 is welded at 23 to the end ring 15 and is welded to the inner shell at 29. The end ring 15 is welded to the inner shell 14 at 27 and to the outer shell at 22. Thus, the outer shell 12 and the inner shell 14 are held in spaced relation by the stay bars 28.

As clearly demonstrated by the description above, the autoclave of *Huston* does not disclose fastening portions formed in integration with the rest of the chamber for allowing releasable connection of the sterilization chamber directly to the housing of the autoclave device by means of repeatedly removable fasteners, as recited in claim 1. Moreover, *Hutson* does not disclose fastening portions that are

flat front and back surfaces of the sterilization chamber provided with openings through which a fastening means may be introduced and thereafter fastened in the housing, as recited in claim 21. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by *Hutson*. The remaining references upon which the Examiner relies also do not disclose a fastening arrangement allowing for repeated removal of the chamber from the autoclave device, as done by the repeatedly removable fasteners of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits claim 1 would not be obvious to one skilled in the art.

Newly added claim 22 similarly recites repeatedly removable fastener means for releasably fastening the fastening portions of the sterilization chamber, and thereby the sterilization chamber, in the housing. Newly added claim 24 recites releasable fastener means for repeatedly and releasably mounting said chamber in said sterilisation device while newly added claim 25 further defines said releasable fastener means such that said planar front and rear wall surfaces define a plurality of fastener portions and a plurality of fastening elements extend through said front planar wall surface and said rear planar wall surface. Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed fastener portions and fastener means are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the cited prior art.

Finally, Applicants note that the Information Disclosure Statement submitted August 30, 2007, together with the appropriate certification and fee has not been considered. Acknowledgment of the same with the next official action is kindly requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present application are now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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